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By 212-m/WTD 1/24/59

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~~FO 11652, WDCS 11652~~

~~August 4, 1959~~

Dear Foy:

This is a further bulletin on LIVE OAK developments subsequent to my letter of June 16. General Norstad has now decided to deal with the unsatisfactory LIVE OAK paper on "More Elaborate Military Measures" in such fashion as to assure that this important work does not remain on dead center. He is about to send a directive to the LIVE OAK planners containing sharp critical comment on the inadequacies of the paper along lines foreshadowed in my letter. At the same time Norstad plans to send to the Chiefs of Staff of each of the three governments a copy of the study itself, together with the covering comment under which the study has been referred back to the planners. This will enable consideration to be given by the three governments to what is essentially the underlying political problem of whether they are prepared to take military measures to protect and defend their rights of access to Berlin even though the risk of general hostilities may be inherent in these measures in varying degrees. If as a result of this the military planners at LIVE OAK get more balanced and comprehensive political guidance, this would be the most effective spur to more imaginative military planning.

I would estimate that the study and covering critique should be leaving here before the end of this week and that you and the others concerned would be seeing it shortly thereafter.

A further item with regard to LIVE OAK. George West and I have just received from Robert H. Miller, S/S-RO, BERCON Memos 1 and 2, plus BERCON-TRI D-1. We note from BERCON 2 that a Master Briefing Book on this subject has been prepared for Mr. Murphy. May I suggest that it would be exceedingly useful to the

effort

The Honorable
Foy D. Kohler,
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for European Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington.

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effort here if a comparable briefing book were available to us and thus, as may be advisable, to General Norstad and his U.S. Deputy. I cannot imagine a better way to insure a proper welding of the LIVE OAK planning with the high political direction which is essential thereto.

Sincerely,

Ray

Raymond L. Thurston

cc: Mr. Barbour, London
Mr. Lyon, Paris
Mr. Tyler, Bonn
Mr. West, Paris

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